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OUR ST. PETERSBURG LETTER.

ST. PETERSBURG, MAY 17.

It is difficult to express the delight and triumph of the National party in Russia at the disasters caused in England by the refractory Fenians. This triumph manifests itself in a series of articles in the Pan-Slavic organs, especially in the *Ross* (that of Azakov), supposed to prove in the most convincing and undeniable manner, that anarchoism, nihilism, terrorism, &c., are the legitimate fruits of European civilisation. "Consider," cries the *Ross*, "the fatal results of a constitutional form of government believed by many to be the best and freest in the world." Mr. Azakov has undertaken a regular crusade against modern science and civilisation, and his organ has never presented before such an abomination of sophisms and absurd contradictions, the whole dressed in the most infernal of all the allegorical jargon. The *Ross* (successor of the *Admiral*), though detecting the fact, really a brave and sympathetic little gazette in very clever and witty writing articles, tries to find some clue to this strange abomination of bigotry, folly, and anarchoism, and has given up the task in despair. "A strange duty sometimes to that of the Russian public," says the *Ross*, "is that of having to defend ideas which for centuries have been considered as the source of everything noble and elevating. There is something hideous in having to take up arms in favour of culture and progress against the attacks of such a very eminent person as M. Azakov, the prophet of the future of Russia." This "prophet" with his usual boldness and entire absence of logic, has drawn from the events of the April 20th, an opportunity to renew his attacks on the English, to reprove their banks and railroads, to threaten with great inundations, and will probably suffer much more than us & Germany. The precautions being taken to exert the evil. The damage made on the railroads is terrible, and the communications continually stopped either by snow-storms or by the water carrying away bridges. All the winter has been ripe with catastrophes on the Russian railways. Passenger trains, surprised by the terrible long & snow-storms have been stopped in lonely desert steppes for several days together, and not only almost buried in the snow, but attacked by troops of famished wolves. One merchandise train having disappeared, was only discovered two days after. The indecisive elements have not even respected the imperial train, which was once snowed up between Terek and Gatchina.

A horrid murder took place at Kherkoff on the 27th of March. A shopkeeper of that town, called Krasnolikoff, one day disappeared, taking with him the key of his house, which was a tavern or trair. After an absence of two days, no one being seen about the premises, the door was broken open, and the spectators stood aghast at the scene before them. The wife of Krasnolikoff, his son (aged 18), his daughter (aged 8), and his old stepfather all lay writhing on their blood, and so horribly maimed that it was clear the wretches had been tortured before making an end of them. The old man was cut to pieces, and the several heads thrown into the air. That same evening the agents of the police, the murderer was arrested. He quickly admitted the killing, and acknowledged himself to be the author of this atrocious butchery, explaining that his wife was always gallivanting about, and that he had given her a lesson for fooling and all. Being questioned as to his motive for killing his innocent wife and his father-in-law, he said, "He thought he might as well while he was about it." The neighbour asserts that the family appeared to be on good terms. The doctor, however, found no satisfactory explanation in the mental state of the murderer, but it is supposed he was not drunk at the time. It has been shown time and again that the brutal primitive Russian, whose culture has not yet touched, once excited by jealousy, passion, or even drink, is worse than any of Attila's Huns, and is capable of committing such remenants of cruelty, mingled with such idiotic indifference as to consequences, that one may well fear a conflagration among such elements, and do impossibility to avoid such terrible events as might occur if these hordes of primitive savages were let loose to do havoc among capitalist and intelligentsia (which is the plan of the nihilists in case their plan miscarries). It is to be regretted that the Prince's provocation it would be much to be deplored. "Russia," says the *Novosti*, "will tranquilly await the attack of the Emir, whose threats will probably not make a very deep impression upon the Russian people."

During the *Ross*, the *Moskovskiye Listy*, the organ of Mr. Katsikoff, now all-powerful in Russia, can find no place to sit at the difficulties with Ireland. Other more insignificant organs bark violently and noisily upon the same subject. It is but one universal chorus of delight mixed with serenity. In general, the aspect of things here is such as to sadden and utterly dismurge those who wish the country well, and proves but too clearly the superficial nature of the reforms made, and how little depth they have yet given in the soil. "Chassez l'ennemi, et il revient au pape" has never had a truer application. The civilisation of Russia will be a thing of centuries, not of years, and any fond hopes of the Liberal party during the last 20 years have been drawn in the torrent of nationalism which has burst all bounds and overrun every class of society. Fifty years hence will probably see the Cossacks intellectually deficient, but strong and powerful enough materially to the English and English especially, the *qui vive*. Still, however, notwithstanding these repeated failures, the Liberal still keep up a stout heart and condone what to absolute savages, wait for a reaction, which they feel will come. The public in Russia now considers with much irony, the change of opinion of the British Government concerning the giving up of political criminal to the country to which they belong. As long as the danger only lay in Russia, England was most liberal in her point of view on the subject; but the recent exploits of the heroes of dynamism in the very heart of the British Empire, and the bold attempt of these outlaws, have brought these things home to England as no eloquence in the world could have done. Under the free impression of murder, explosions, and vandalism, the anarchists, from political martyrs, have suddenly become brigands and outlaws. The *Novosti* says: "Who but England is to blame? We are not the who systematically opposed the establishment of that union of the slaves of which we now complain? Did she not loyally ignore and pretend not to notice the advances made by Russia in this respect? But a short time has elapsed since Hertzen, Most, and Nekrasov, Russian nihilists found not only a refuge in London, but sympathy and material help while they were concocting their most terrible plots."

The *Novosti* adds, that England was the first to place impediments in the way of a project calculated to be carried out by an international band all directed against an English town, and condemned to absolute savagery, wait for a reaction, which they feel will come. The public in Russia now considers with much irony, the change of opinion of the British Government concerning the giving up of political criminal to the country to which they belong. As long as the danger only lay in Russia, England was most liberal in her point of view on the subject; but the recent exploits of the heroes of dynamism in the very heart of the British Empire, and the bold attempt of these outlaws, have brought these things home to England as no eloquence in the world could have done. Under the free impression of murder, explosions, and vandalism, the anarchists, from political martyrs, have suddenly become brigands and outlaws. The *Novosti* says: "Who but England is to blame? We are not the who systematically opposed the establishment of that union of the slaves of which we now complain? Did she not loyally ignore and pretend not to notice the advances made by Russia in this respect? But a short time has elapsed since Hertzen, Most, and Nekrasov, Russian nihilists found not only a refuge in London, but sympathy and material help while they were concocting their most terrible plots."

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PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1.

The PRESIDENT took the chair at half-past 4.

CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES.

Mr. DALLEY moved (without notice), "That during the absence from the present sitting of Mr. Docker, the Hon. William Richard Piddington do take the chair in committee."

The motion was agreed to.

QUESTION.

Mr. BRODRIDGE moved (without notice) when a return showing the names of friendly societies whose funds had been embezzled— to include cases that had come into the cognisance of the Registrar of Friendly Societies, the police authorities, and the recent Royal Commission on Friendly Societies with the other documents of estimation of the amount of the embezzlement, to be laid on 27th April last to be supplied, would be laid on the table.

Mr. DALLEY said he was not in a position to answer the question now, but he would communicate at once with the Department of the Government Printer, from which information respecting the return could be obtained.

TRAMWAYS DECLARATORY BILL.

The PRESIDENT announced that he had received a message from the Legislative Council, stating that the Assembly had made amendments in the amendments made by the Council in the measure, and soliciting the concurrence of the Council in the same.

Mr. DALLEY moved that the President leave the chair, and that the House resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole, for the consideration of the Assembly's amendments.

Mr. PIDDINGTON regretted that last night they had not accepted the proposal made by Mr. Darley, that steam motors should be compelled to travel at a rate not greater than eight miles an hour. One of the reasons that he gave for this was that, which a horse and cart could not be put into a motor, which was said to be going at the rate of 25 miles an hour. The cart was smashed, the horse and harness were injured, and the driver escaped total consequences only by rolling into a gutter. The bill was not introduced into the House, but it was possible that it would have been introduced under such circumstances. When precautions were taken to prevent sheep being injured on their railways, a humane Legislature should surely have consideration for the lives and limbs of the people. The bill of legislation would be followed by a series of daily occurrences.

Mr. SILWRIGHT would like to know what business the man had on the tramway. It appeared that he was in front, too, and ought to have seen the tram approaching, and made way for it. People would from stupidity or negligence put themselves in the way of trams. Similar accidents would happen to them if they did not get out of the way of our tramways.

The motion was agreed to, and the House went into committee.

Mr. DALLEY moved that the committee agree to the amendments made in the bill by the Assembly. He said the bill was introduced into the House, and had been agreed to without any amendment.

Mr. MELHUNE said that he had no wish to obstruct the Government getting that bill through, but he thought that where the lives and properties of her Majesty's subjects were concerned, it was right that the Government should make arrangements to be paid to persons whose limbs or property might suffer through the carelessness of officials. He described an accident that had occurred on the tramway which occurred near Christ Church early that morning. It was caused by the carelessness of a workman who was driving a steam motor at the rate of 25 miles per hour. He had reportedly seen trams travelling over the crossing at a speed of 20 miles an hour; and he believed that the drivers of trams often blew their infernal whistles in order to frighten horses, might as well blow them to frighten workmen for the House to pass a bill to penalise masters or mistresses. He trusted that the Upper House would take the matter into consideration, and provide for ensuring the safety of the lives and property of every one. He would like to have the bill introduced into the Assembly, so as to have a law to prevent such an accident as had occurred by his Master's Government.

Mr. DALLEY moved that the committee agree to the omission of the words "since" in the clause.

Mr. SILWRIGHT would like to know what business the man had on the tramway.

Mr. DALLEY said that he would like to introduce a new clause in the place of the first one.

Mr. PIDDINGTON ruled that the hon. gentleman could not do so at the present stage of the proceedings.

Mr. STEWART said that he would like to have it pointed out in some way that for the first time the Court of Justice had gone so far wrong that it had agreed to the amendments upon the Council's amendments upon the tramways declaratory bill.

Mr. DALLEY said that in that case he need not proceed any further. (Laughter.)

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. DALLEY said that he knew nothing of the man referred to by the hon. member for the Upper Hunter, excepting that he was a respectable man living at Summer Hill.

Mr. PIDDINGTON said that his opportunity had been given to him by the House to speak on the bill. What the present committee had to do was to decide whether to agree to the amendments made by the Assembly, or to reject them.

Mr. STEWART said that in that case he need not proceed any further. (Laughter.)

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. DALLEY said that he had no objection to the bill of the hon. member for the Upper Hunter.

Mr. PIDDINGTON said that he had no objection to the bill of the hon. member for the Upper Hunter, excepting that he was a respectable man living at Summer Hill.

Mr. DALLEY said that he was not surprised that the owners of carriages and buggies were opposed to tramways, which were then advanced, by another, and were not popular with the public.

Mr. PIDDINGTON said that he had no objection to the bill of the hon. member for the Upper Hunter, excepting that he was a respectable man living at Summer Hill.

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last day's sittings. The history of the whole business is illustrative of the risk of undue haste in legislation. It goes far to show that, however inconvenient the forms and technicalities of Parliamentary procedure may on some occasions appear to be, their value in providing opportunities for dispassionate consideration can hardly be over-estimated. These opportunities are not always turned to account; but that is the fault of the men, not of the system. This system, in fact, is not well understood as it should be. On Thursday night, when the Assembly was pressed to concur in the Council's amendments without further delay, the proposal met with two very different answers. The one was, "Let us not have reckless legislation"; the other was, "Let us finish the matter at once, and cast the responsibility upon the Government." It is not easy to see how any member of Parliament can divest himself of responsibility in this manner. If a bad law is passed in the dark by the votes or with the consent of members who deliberately forego means and opportunities for acquainting themselves with its character, and take for granted whatever a Government may say about it, those members are sharers in the responsibility.

During the session some time was consumed in discussing the legality of the convention of Parliament. It has also been said that steps will be taken to test the question. Parliament itself was not the court in which it could be tested. The attendance of its members in obedience to the summons was a practical acknowledgement of the validity of the call. We questioned the legitimacy of a session so convened by the issue of the proclamation convening it. Now that the session has been held, and the work for which it was held is done, we join with the late ATTORNEY-GENERAL in the "hope" that the action of the Government was within the sanction of the law. The situation created by the judgment of the Supreme Court was full of embarrassment. The difficulty could only be removed by prompt legislation. The bill that has been passed is far less objectionable in form than at first it threatened to be, and seems to provide more explicitly for the accomplishment of its purpose. It would be a public calamity if its validity could be disputed. But it would also be a source of danger to the public if the course taken on this occasion were lightly accepted as a precedent.

Mr. Goyva, the Surveyor-General of South Australia, has furnished to the Government a valuable report on the possibilities of irrigation, if the available water supply were duly turned to account. In no colony is there more need to give attention to this matter, because, as a whole, no colony is worse watered than South Australia. In the north-western portions of the colony the rainfall is occasionally as low as five inches, and sometimes for years together, while in the more prosperous portion twenty inches makes a good year. The soil is admirably suited for wheat-growing, and for that crop twenty inches is sufficient, if the rainfall comes just at the right periods. As a general rule it does so; but for this happy concurrence South Australia could never have reaped so large a harvest as it has done. It differs in this respect from Queensland, where wheat farming has been less prosperous because, though the soil is favourable, the rainfall, though sufficient in quantity, does not so happily fit the times when the wheat crop craves moisture.

The water-bearing portion of South Australia is the south-eastern district, which is remarkable for the existence of several lakes. Mr. Goyva thinks that these are probably artesian in source. So far as at present experimented on, this district, which is mainly level, yields water everywhere at a moderate depth, and in some places large drainage works have had to be executed by the Government to make the land available. It is probable, therefore, that by the aid of windmill pumps the whole of this district may be sufficiently irrigated, just as the flat country round Sacramento is.

It is very different, however, with a more heavy and limestone country, and, as a rule, further to the north, and specially to the northwest, the drier does South Australia become. For three years in succession the farmers have been disappointed, though this year they have had a beautiful rainfall, which has filled them with hope. Mr. Goyva thinks that underneath the surface there has been all along a sufficient supply of water to have saved the crops. It is well to have faith in order to provoke experiment, but it would not be scientific to assume this conclusion as a certainty. Underground water is the result of leakage, which means a previous rainfall, and where that rainfall has not for three years been more than five inches, it is not reasonable to expect much water underground, unless it has travelled long distances through a porous subsoil. There are, however, some places, especially in the north-eastern portion of the colony, where heavy tropical rains inundate the country for many miles, and where the water disappears much more rapidly than it could do by evaporation, and where the amount that remains visible on the surface in lakes is far less than rainfall. In these years there must have been great leakage, and the water may be stored underground, out of sight and away from the risk of evaporation, and therefore much more securely than if it had been stored above ground. There is not only, however, the problem of physical geography to be considered, but also that of economy. Mr. Goyva points to the fact that in several countries water enough has been raised for irrigation and agriculture. But does he know of any case where this has been done in a country where labour has been so well remunerated as it is in Australia? This point is the essence of the practical problem, for it would be in vain for our engineers to provide water enough to grow the wheat if the cost of so growing were above the market rate of the produce.

It is evident from the letter of our Fiji correspondent that the relations between the Government and the planters are still somewhat strained. The former acting, properly enough, as protector of aborigines, sometimes gets misled by false representations, and makes charges which cannot be sustained by competent evidence. The latter are apt to get into disgrace through cruelties committed by their overseers. On both sides there are circumlocutions and counter-accusations. The Government itself is an employer of coloured labourers, and the planters look as sharply after them as they are watched in turn, and sometimes get a chance of showing that the Government has been guilty of omission and

commission quite as much as the planters themselves. An amusing instance of this, and also the folly of pressing the letter of the law, instead of taking its spirit, is mentioned in respect of a regulation compelling employers to furnish a certain number of yams for food for the labourers. There happened to be a time when the market was bare of yams, and the stipulated food could not be obtained for love or money. The Sugar Refining Company, under these circumstances, treated its labourers to the much better diet of beef and bread, and were fined for disobeying the strict letter of the regulation. The proprietor of another leading estate was cautioned for the same offence, while all the time the Government was equally unable to provide yams for its own labourers. Instances of this kind naturally provoke irritation, and planters who are worried in this way naturally drift into the opinion that Government is bigoted and prejudiced, and that it is disposed to make the planters' position unbearable. On the other hand, there are some grave charges of oppression and cruelty towards the native labourers. Most of them are brought, not so much against the proprietors as against their overseers, and there always will be a tendency to this, so long as the social status of the different races is so widely separated. The difficulty will be diminished as the Polynesians become more civilised—as they better learn the value of their own labour and better understand how to enforce their rights in Court. It is only a population that cannot protect itself that is exposed to oppression. Meanwhile, it is suggested that one way of preventing overseers from being cruel and over-exacting would be to insist on their having a license, as this would make it to their interest, as well as to the interest of their employers, to carry out the law alike in its letter and its spirit.

The attempt, both in Fiji and in Queensland, to carry out sugar-growing in the spirit of the free institutions which Englishmen have learnt to love, is, we must remember, a novelty, and we must not be surprised at difficulties arising. Almost everywhere sugar-growing has been done by slave labour, nominally or really. The planters and the labourers have been of different races. Even in America, where terrible civil war has given emancipation to the slave, it is still the negro who does the labour. If all the negroes were to troop back to Africa, American sugar-growing, as well as cotton-growing, would collapse. In Australia, as well as in Fiji, which is practically an Australian dependency, we are making the attempt to start sugar-growing without infringing the principles of liberty and civic equality, and while the old industry undergoes such a transformation we must not be astonished if difficulties arise.

The entire absence of proper drainage is in some of the suburbs of Sydney makes it necessary to pay attention to the matter of dis-interfecting drains and such like sources of ill odours and danger. Where nature has created high ground, and deviates towards some creek or arm of the harbour, the question of drainage is not at present severely felt. But some of our suburbs have no such natural advantages, and all their waste material must be "consumed" on the premises.

The consumption in many cases is very imperfect, and at no distant future we may have to deal with a startling nuisance. Two things may be done at once, one of which is to adopt all necessary means to disinfect. A correspondent in Friday's issue names a cheap solution, which he alleges is very effective. There are many others. Copper or sulphate of iron is said to be a powerful disinfectant for common drains, and the chemists have a hundred nostrums besides. The difficulty is not to find a good solution, but to prevail upon people to use it. The prevalence of fever, and now and again a fatal casualty, are quite sufficient to quicken the class of mortals commonly addicted to unprinted and unswep drains. Unfortunately, there are many persons who cannot be made by anything short of police force to take care of themselves. But basic disinfection, there is the question of utilising household refuse, there is a very small quantity of ground attached, could easily absorb all their waste water and rubbish. Nature is a powerful friend to man in this respect.

Not the least point in the case is that the cost is small and the returns in comfort and cash are considerable. The first expense is the greatest; but because the cost comes before the returns the last is lost sight of. As we have said, the full pressure of the evil has not yet been felt; but it is growing apace. Week by week, neighbourhoods are thickening up. The sea tide does not come on with surer or more relentless wave. The property holder looks on hoping that something will turn up, and the unhappy tenant, who very often is much the greater offender of the two, sees plainly that sooner or later he must flee; but, alas for him, where else is he to find a safer home? In all these cases it is to overcome greed of gain and recklessness, by creating, if we can, a higher tone. That is the most powerful of disinfectants, using all others simply as instruments.

Some districts of New England are in a peculiar condition just now, caused chiefly by an *epidemic* of *redness*. They have too much unprinted wealth; they can neither use nor sell it. A magnificent harvest has filled all their barns, but they are unable to make the contents of their barns repulsive to their cattle. They are overflowing with wheat and potatoes, if not with oil and wine, and they hold that their only want is a railway to the coast. They make much noise in the land, which is in itself a tolerable good sign of prosperity, since poor people are usually silent with their sorrow. But it is the reason and justice of their claims which demand consideration, rather than the exact nature of their circumstances, and those claims must be judged by their relation to the general welfare of the colony rather than their immediate interest to the people of New England. We can no more start a railway to Glen Innes, because we are told that "hundreds of bushels of wheat are rotting in the barns," than to the Bellinger River, because some few bags of maize are said to be rotting on the banks. The very notion of wheat rotting in barns is, indeed, open to some question or condemnation. It is not the fashion of properly harvested wheat to rot in properly constructed barns, and possibly the farmers would have done better to have sown a little less attention to their wheat stocks and barn roofs, and a little less to their wheat.

That point, however, has lightly passed. The real questions which face the Government and the country are, railway construction practicable in those districts of Central New England; and when such railways are constructed, will they, directly or indirectly, pay? If the only line considered is that which should find a direct outlet on the coast, there is some difficulty in making an answer. A port on the coast would draw off the natural supplies from the main Northern line, and though constructed at vast expense, would serve but one comparatively small district, and since it brought grain to no other mill would have to be entirely self supporting. A railway to the coast would not be an extension of the present system nor would it naturally attach itself to that system, unless as a sucker; it would run to a place of shipment which will only be rendered secure by years of labour and a large expenditure of national funds. The true solution for the Northern difficulty seems to be rapid extension of the *existing* line,

and possibly construction of substantially built branch lines as feeders. The construction of such lines presents no great engineering difficulties, and in a country that will produce bushels of wheat and 17 tons of potatoes to the acre would probably pay very fair interest upon their cost.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

THE French garrison at Hanoi, who were besieged by the Annamese, after the defeat of the French troops a few days ago, have been relieved by French gunboats, which proceeded up the river. It appears that the French in the late sorties lost several officers, besides the Commandant of the forces.

From Berlin we learn that the negotiations between Prussia and the Vatican, which were entered into with the view of bringing about a *modus vivendi*, are not likely to result in achieving the object aimed at. The Pope declines the proposals of Germany, and a rupture is considered imminent.

In the course of the proceedings in the House of Commons on Thursday, the member for Roscommon, Mr. O'Kelly, used unparliamentary language towards

Mr. W. E. Forster, and was challenged to fight by Mr. J. Kelly. The latter has been summoned by the Speaker to appear at the bar to answer for his conduct.

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French Government

that the firm especially being enthusiastically received. Messrs. McMurtrie and Kellermann were heartily congratulated upon having completed premises so admirably adapted in every way for the purpose for which they were intended, and the hope was warmly expressed that their enterprise would be rewarded by the success it deserved.

In our advertisement columns will be found an acknowledgement by the treasurer of the Prince Alfred Hospital of all subscriptions and donations received in the course of the present year, including one of £1000 from Mr. Thomas Walker, which is to form the nucleus of an endowment fund for the hospital. We are informed that the establishment, which is now full of patients, is very much in want of funds. It is to be hoped that a knowledge of this fact will be sufficient to induce the charitable public by their liberality to remove an obstacle which must seriously hamper the operations and limit the usefulness of a noble institution.

The subscription lists in connection with the collections made in New South Wales for the support of the sufferers by inundations in Germany have been published by the joint treasurer and secretary. It appears that the total amount subscribed in this colony is £22,197.50, £11. Of this sum, £11.00 has been sent to the Central Committee in Germany, leaving in hand £22,196.11. £11. From this sum to be deducted the expenses for printing, advertising, postage, and carriage—about £500 in all—and the balance, when this is settled, will be at once forwarded.

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of the public who desired to pay their visit, and the

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few days after Winter's estate had been sequestered; and it was further stated that he (Saunders) had given Winter £100 as the proceeds of such sale. Winter positively denied having sent any goods to Sydney or having sent Saunders there, or having received any money from Saunders for goods disposed of in Sydney. Ultimately the examination was adjourned until the 12th instant.

A new agreement has been arrived at between the Minister for Railways and the proprietors of Kensington Hill with reference to the removal of earth for filling up and for ballast purchased by the late Minister of Railways. The new agreement will be submitted to the Cabinet before being published. It proposes to extend the time allowed for the removal of earth, in consideration of which certain concessions are to be allowed to the owners of the property.

At the Melbourne General Sessions, to-day, the Crown Prosecutor applied that the trial of Thomas Church, charged with embezzling a large sum belonging to his employers, Messrs. Brown & Company, and merchants of Newcastle—be postponed in order that the Crown might procure additional evidence. His Honor the Magistrate, in this rare case in which a man was acquitted of a charge of wilfully the police do not consider themselves qualified in taking further action in checking this offence.

Arrived: Franklin (s.), from Albany: Lusitania (s.), from Melbourne: Uriah from Nantes.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

PERTH, FRIDAY.

To-day being the anniversary of the foundation of the colony, sports are taking place, attracting a large attendance. Mr. S. H. Parker, one of the members for Perth, presented the cup to the winner of the handicap race.

A private letter has been received from Mr. Anthony Horden, of Sydney, stating that a syndicate was perfectly ready to carry out his railway proposal, and if this Government would give encouragement, to take the railway along right across to South Australia, through Hamptons Plains. To allow an affidavit was prepared and sworn the case was put back.

The estate of Robert Carter, jeweller, of this city, was sequestered to-day. The jeweller, in his affidavit, states that prior to the recent burglary on his premises he believed he was able to pay his creditors in full. He would not be able to file particulars of his assets and liabilities at present, as he did not know the actual amount of the losses he had sustained through the robbery.

The agricultural statistics for the year ended 31st March last are published in a supplement to the Government Gazette this evening. They show a considerable increase in the extent of land under tillage, which was 204,050,916 acres, being 219,187 acres in excess of the previous year. The yield of wheat showed an increase of 21,008 bushels, oats an increase of 829,614 bushels; maize, 37,638 bushels. The yield of ripe peas and beans showed an increase, whilst barley and potatoes showed a decrease. The average yield of wheat per acre was 9.1 per cent, against 8.40 in 1881-2.

A public welcome was accorded to Mr. W. Robertson, member for Polwarth and Ormiston, to-day on his arrival at Colac, after returning from a Continental tour. Mr. Robertson is to be entertained at a banquet by his constituents.

A special steam car was made to-day with a special high-pressure cylinder. When between some stations the car attained a speed of 20 miles an hour. It is considered that it may be very advantageous used in country districts.

There was a very long discussion at a special meeting of the Medical Board to-day with regard to an application from the Rev. Richard V. Slade for a certificate of registration. The applicant produced a diploma from the Medico and Chirurgical College of Philadelphia as M.B. The board ultimately refused his application.

A shipwright named Beck was to-day awarded £1171 damages for injuries received by him in the Haworth railway collision, and a carpenter named W. Clark received £290.

It transpired at a meeting of the Medical Board to-day that a certificate given by Mr. Graham Mitchell, M.S., of a special vaccination, by himself, at the model farm, with calf lymph, had not been accepted as valid by the deputy-registrar.

Considerable delay to the traffic on the North-Eastern line was caused to-day owing to an engine attached to the Goulburn Valley train running off the line at Mangalore station, just in front of a train from Melbourne.

A young man named Whitley, 19 years of age, was killed at the Australasian Extended Mine at Creswick to-day. Whitley was descending the shaft in the cage, with a piece of iron in his hand, when one end of it caught between the cage and the other end became entangled. Whitley's throat just under his jaw. The unfortunate man then fell from the cage to the bottom of the shaft. He was picked up dead.

Joseph Davidson, licensee of the Theatre Royal, C. was fined to-day for selling inferior brandy, purporting to be Hennessy's.

A further report has been received by the Minister for Agriculture from Mr. Hogart, inspector at Geelong under the Vine Disease Act. The inspector states that, with one exception, phylloxera is still prevalent in every property that was uprooted in 1880 that he has yet examined.

As the root becomes purified the vine itself migrates to others, leaving behind a trail of decayed roots. Succulent roots at a depth of 25 inches have been found covered with these insects. Mr. Hogart summarises the position by saying that in the earliest uprooted vineyards all the roots, and consequently the phylloxera, have nearly if not quite perished.

In the properties destroyed phylloxera is still spreading—in some slowly, in others rapidly—over the yet succulent roots. Any immediate or early extinction cannot be expected. Probably it will be three or four years before the work of eradication is thoroughly completed.

The man Swanson, who was arrested in Sydney on a charge of robbing the Bank of Australia at Bendigo, arrived overland this evening in charge of Detective O'Leary.

The creditors in the insolvent estate of Robert Carter, whose premises are alleged to have been robbed of £10,000 worth of watches and jewels, have offered a reward of £1000 for the recovery of the property.

A wealthy squatter named John Dixon Wyley, who died recently near Winkleby, in the Western district, has left the sum of £20,000 to the Theological Hall of the Presbyterian College, £10,000 to Ormond College, and £5000 to the Presbyterian Ladies' College at Melbourne. He has also endowed a congregation at Winkleby with £200 per annum.

The permanent heads of the Government departments met to-day for the purpose of arranging for the adequate representation of the state institutions at the Calcutta Exhibition. It was agreed that the exhibits should be properly classified, in order to avoid duplication.

Arrived: Ballarat, P. and O. Company's (s.), Konowar (s.), City of Adelaide (s.), Redondo (s.), from Sydney; Claud Hamilton, from Adelaide; Southern Cross, from Hobart. Sailed: Sydney, M.M. Company's steamer, at 5 a.m. for Marseilles; Mangaia, for Launceston; and Saunders, for Sydney.

QUEENSLAND.

BRISBANE, FRIDAY.

The Charters Towers Pastoral Show was very successful. The cattle and horses were excellent. The attendance was large on both days.

Professor Denton leaves Townsville on Monday to inspect and report upon the Star silver mines. On his return he will lecture on that field. Professor Denton has also been engaged to report on the coal indications near Townsville.

The Brisbane Board of Waterworks has accepted the terms of Messrs. Ross and Dunbar, Sydney, for the construction of the Gold Creek reservoir, for £39,757, the work to be finished by the end of December, 1884.

The Railway Commission this morning re-examined Mr. Herbert, who had to be stopped by the commission when referring to Mr. Thalton, whom he accused of disreputable, and said that Mr. Thalton's resignation was not genuine. The inquiry was adjourned for a fortnight.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE, FRIDAY.

The case in which the Adelaide Racing Club and Joe Thompson, the bookmaker, are concerned came on for hearing in the Supreme Court to-day, but were adjourned on technical grounds until next Monday week.

Sir William Morgan leaves for England to-morrow per steamer. He will be absent probably about four months.

The weather has cleared up, and to-day was fine with sunshine.

The first meeting of the Royal Commission appointed to arrange all details in connection with the forthcoming Jubilee Exhibition was held at Government House this morning, under the presidency of the Governor. The principal business was the appointment of sub-committees to take the oversight of the various divisions of exhibits. His Excellency stated that his Ministry intended to move the Imperial Government to appoint a Royal Commission on the subject.

At the meeting of the Hospital Board to-day the

question of medical comforts was again considered. Dr. Way disclaimed any wish to advocate extravagance, and favoured judicious dining. He pointed out that the number of serious cases had increased of late, and referred with satisfaction to the fact that the death-rate in the more serious disease was far lower than in previous years.

The Caledonian Society held a social meeting to-night to bid farewell to Mr. John McDonald, of the Theatre Royal Hotel, one of the founders of the society. An address was presented to him, and a speech was made by the Hon. A. Hay, warmly testifying to the efforts of Mr. McDonald on behalf of the society.

Owing to the decision of Mr. Beddoe, Police Magistrate, in this recent case in which a man was acquitted of a charge of wilfully the police do not consider themselves qualified in taking further action in checking this offence.

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The New Zealand, Wellington, Friday.

Sir George Grey has presented three valuable old paintings to the city of Auckland.

COUNTRY NEWS.

[By Telegraph.]

(From Our Own Correspondents.)

NEwCASTLE, FRIDAY.

Work has been resumed at the New Lambton Colliery, the water having been got under.

The fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the Newcastle Steamship Company, Limited, was held yesterday at Sir Sidney's Terminus Hotel, Mr. Joseph Wood in the chair, the report and balance sheet were adopted, and the usual dividend of 10 per cent. declared.

The Highland Gun, from Middlesbrough, England, has brought out another consignment of pipes for the Hunter River water supply.

The Customs' revenue for the past fortnight was £2971.00.

A dense fog overspread the city this afternoon, but it has since cleared off.

GRIMFELD, FRIDAY.

One and three-quarter inches of rain fell during the week. Weather still threatening.

URALLA, FRIDAY.

Professor Liveridge and Mr. Russell, Government Astronomer, on a passing tour yesterday, visited the Long Tunnel mine, and expressed their approbation of the working. They consider the future prospects of the mine as very bright.

GRAFTON, FRIDAY.

The dredging machine which has been employed depurating the channel of the Upper Clarence, at Red Rock, and at the Eatonsdale ford first, has finished the work at those places. It has been very successful in its operations. At Eatonsdale, where the droghers had to wait the state of the tide before getting over, they can now cross at any time there being five feet of water at low tide. Since the dredging operations have been commenced, there has been no tendency on the part of the channel to silt up again, but on the contrary the extra rush of water seems to have secured the channel. There is still much more of the shingle, which was formerly the great impediment to navigation. The dredge will now be employed depurating the upper channel, which is now in the neighbourhood of stone walls, which have been put up by the miners of these guns. The pieces generally used for field service about the middle of the eighteenth century were 8, 6, and 12 pounder shot guns; and 7, 10, and 12 pound howitzers.

The tactics of the regimental or field artillery guns have been described as follow:—“The direction of the two pieces was entrusted to a corporal, who was obliged to obey implicitly the orders of the commander of the battery; and in the first instance he considered the artillery but an obstacle to his brilliant plan of attack, deranging as it did the mathematical regularity of his evolution. After the battle of Hochstet, in 1757, his eyes were opened to the real importance of this arm. He formed the first corps of Prussian Horse Artillery, consisting of ten light six-pounders to each battery. It was twice destroyed (at Kunersdorf and Maxen) and reconstructed for the third time. At Prenzlau in 1759, and Reichshofen in 1762, the light artillery did good service. Nevertheless, owing to the incompetency of the officers, it was, says Decker (Historie des Principeau Combats de la Guerre de Sept Ans), ‘long a bane to the artillery commander.’ The designation ‘howitzer’ was first adopted in the Prussian army in 1770, when they had 425 guns to 104,000 men: they also adopted the principle of attaching three barrels to howitzers to each regiment of dragoons—troops originally trained to fight both on foot and on horseback: the precursors, in fact, of the mounted infantry so successfully revived by General Blücher, Egyptian, and French.”

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Auction Sales.

THIS DAY.

BERRY'S ESTATE, NORTH SHORE,
FIRST SUMMER-SALE,
ON THE GROUND.

Under Instructions from David Berry, Esq., of Shoalhaven.

THAT PORTION OF LAND
FOR THE BUILDING OF A
LAW COURTHOUSE,
and extending from
MIDDLE-STREET to the PUBLIC SCHOOL,

BUILDING ALLOTMENTS

by Mr. Surveyor, C. E.

LITHOGRAPHS OBTAINABLE AT THE ROOMS.

HARDIE and GORMAN have received instructions
from David Berry, Esq., of SHOALHAVEN, to sell by
public auction.

ON THE GROUND,

PORTION OF LAND,

BERRY'S ESTATE, AT NORTH SHORE,
with frontage to State Cottages, and extending from
MIDDLE-STREET to the PUBLIC SCHOOL.

SPECIAL CONVENTION on day of sale.

THE RAILWAY AT NORTH SHORE,
THE RAILWAY AT NORTH SHORE,
THE RAILWAY AT NORTH SHORE,
THE RAILWAY AT NORTH SHORE,

have all been

MANUFACTURED BY PARLIAMENT,

MONEY'S TITLE.

and the same.

It is pretty generally conceded that Berry's Estate will be one
of the most beneficial properties by these large and important
Government works. Intending buyers are therefore requested to
apply early for plans.SALE TO-MORROW, AT 3 P.M.
TICKETS: 1/-ONE-FOURTH CASH: balance 6 and 12 months,
at 5 per cent.

THIS AFTERNOON.

AFTER BERRY'S SALE,

MILLER and RIDGE STREETS,

A grand CORNER BLOCK subdivided into
5 VILLA SITESeach having 35 FEET frontage to MILLER-STREET, by about
100 feet, having the great depth of 180 feet;

LOT 1, having the depth of 180 feet;

VALUABLE CORNER BLOCK,

extending

THE ST. LEONARD'S RESERVE.

and the same.

HARDIE and GORMAN have received instructions
from B. O. HOLTERMAN, Esq., to sell by public auction

ON THE GROUND,

THIS DAY, AND JUNE,

FIVE SITES, corner of MILLER and RIDGE STREETS,

MILLER'S SHORE, just opposite the Roman Catholic

Church, and the RESERVE, as per title, obtainable at
the rooms.

VILLA RESIDENCE, MARICKVILLE.

A COMFORTABLE RESIDENCE, built fronting the ULLAD-

WALL-STREET, built on stone, tiled roof, and

contains 4 rooms, kitchen, washhouse, pantry, &c. At

present let to MARICKVILLE COURT. THE LAND has

60 feet frontage, 180 feet deep, title.

TITLE, FREEHOLD.

HARDIE and GORMAN have received instructions to
sell by public auction, at their Rooms, 153, Pitt-street, at
11.30 o'clock, on WEDNESDAY, 6th JUNE.The above-described property, worth about \$300 per
annum.

CLONTARIO, CLONTARIO,

A WELL-BUILT TERRACE of 4 HOUSES, situated fronting

HIGH-STREET, WITHIN 3 MINUTES WALK from the

THEATRE, each containing 3 rooms, kitchen,

small bathroom, and a back room, garden, &c. A
grate, abundant supply of water from tanks, &c. garden in
front. THE LAND has a frontage of 63 feet, by a depth of 114
feet, to a site of 114 feet.

TITLE, TORRENS.

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THEATRE, CLONTARIO,

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11.30 o'clock, on WEDNESDAY, 6th JUNE.The above-described allotments of land, as per plan, at the
rooms.The road and railway lines have been surveyed close to the
the plan, at Marickville.

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A GRAND BLOCK of LAND, having 180 feet frontage to

PEACOCK-STREET by a through depth to MACMILLAN-

STREET, each containing 3 rooms, kitchen,

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HARDIE and GORMAN have received instructions to
sell by public auction, at their Rooms, 153, Pitt-street, at

Auction Sales.

Butchers. Butchers. Butchers.
Goodwill, Lease, and Plant of an old-established Shop, now doing a good business.

GEORGE WELLS has received instructions from Mr. John Sulway to sell by auction, on the premises, No. 310 and 112, Argyle-street, Waterloo, MONDAY next, June 4, at 11 o'clock.

LEARE, GOODWILL, and PLANT
Horse, cart, and horses.
Baudouin, steam and filters, pumping-machine, scales, stocks, iron rags, butchers' tools, &c.

Terms, cash.

The above is for positive sale.

A grand opportunity for a good business man.

The shop is in a good business locality, a long lease, the rent

Books of trade can be seen any day previous to sale.

GEORGE WELLS, Auctioneer.

Office, 197, Sussex-st.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE, HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

THIS (SATURDAY) AFTERNOON, half-past 3 o'clock.

VICTORIA-STREET EAST, CHARING CROSS.

GEORGE WELLS has received instructions from Mr. John Sulway to sell by auction, on the premises, No. 310 and 112, Argyle-street, Waterloo, MONDAY next, June 4, at 11 o'clock, on the premises, Victoria-street, Waterloo.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE and EFFECTS,

all of which are quite new.

DRAWING-ROOM, without suite room, r.p., whitewash, panelled round table, centre pole and stool, in green and gold.

BRUSSELS CARPET and hearthrug, and stool, in green.

DINING-ROOM furniture. AUSTRIAN chairs, large rocking chair, dining-table, sideboard, sewing-machine, &c.

BEDROOM FURNITURE, four-post bedstead, bedding, and curtains, single bedsteads and bedding, matching top, wainscots, drawing-table, looking-glass, chest of drawers.

HALL FURNITURE, hat stand, hall chairs, clock, oil-lamp, piano, statuary, lamps, &c.

KITCHEN and LAUNDRY UTENSILS and requisites, &c., &c.

Terms, cash.

GEORGE WELLS,

Auctioneer.

Office, 197, Sussex-st.

CLOKS, WATCHES
Jewellery and sundries.

THE DAY, Saturday, the 2nd June, on the Premises, 34, Park-street.

SEAFORTH PROCTER will sell by auction, at half-past 3 p.m., Watches, clocks, jewellery, and sundries, at 84, Park-street, in quantities to suit purchasers.

TO Furniture Brokers, Dealers, the Trade, and Others.

THE DAY, Saturday, June 2, at 2 p.m.

On the Premises, 203, Crown-road, Ultimo.

HAINES and CO. have received instructions to sell by public auction, on the Premises, Crown-road, Ultimo, THIS DAY, Saturday, June 2, at 2 p.m., Household Furniture and Effects, comprising

Chairs, tables, looking-glass, and other tables, piano, glassware, washstands and ware, chest drawers, double and single bedsteads, bedding, carpet, &c., &c.

WILLS and GREENHALGH will sell by auction, THIS DAY, at Newcastle, at 1 o'clock.

Wood, coal, &c., &c.

At Darling Harbour, at 1 o'clock.

Wood, pots, &c.

MILKING COWS,
HORSES, and HARNESS.

SEAFORTH PROCTER has received instructions to sell by auction, on the premises, Church-street, Camperdown, near Congregational Church, Ultimo, the 1st instant, at 11 o'clock.

Four milking cows, horse, cart, and harness.

Goods will be sold by auction, and sundries.

DENT and PERCY will sell by auction, NEWTON THIS DAY, at 12 o'clock, Wood, pots, &c.

DENT and PERCY will sell by auction, at Darling Harbour, THIS DAY, at 8 o'clock, Wood, pots, &c.

IMPORTANT SALE

BO HEAD DAIRY CATTLE, at CAMPBELLTOWN,

on SATURDAY, JUNE 9.

WILLIAM INGLIS and SON have received instructions from Thomas Heriot, Esq., to sell by auction, at CATTERSDALE, TURKS, CAMPBELLTOWN, on SATURDAY, June 9, at 12 o'clock.

100 head very superior, quiet, well-bred MILK COWS and HEIFERS, all of which are forward in sale, and a large number of them very near calving.

The auctioneers invite special attention to the sale from farmers, dairymen, and others who are anxious to secure good cattle, as these will be found a thoroughly first-class lot, and the best offered in the district for a long time past.

Transcript Sydney for Campbelltown at 7.30 and 8.45 a.m. on morning of sale.

FAT CATTLE and SHEEP.

HOMEBOURNE.

MONDAY, 4th JUNE.

PITT, SON, and BAGREY have received instructions to sell by auction, at the Corporation Yards, Homebush, on MONDAY, next, at 11 o'clock.

100 head of cattle, on account Messrs. M. and J. J. Mahony.

90 prime fat cattle, on account Mr. Robert Paton

100 prime fat cattle, on account Mr. D. McPherson

100 prime fat cattle, from Groomer.

1778 prime merinos, for Messrs. Britton Bros.

200 prime merinos, for Mr. J. J. Mahony.

200 prime merinos, for Mr. J. J. Mahony.

AMERICAN RAMS, selected by an experienced Australian sheep Farmer, regarded as cost, & colour, & quality, &c., &c.

The Rammer will be sold by auction, at the Bazaar, Pitt-street, on Saturday, June 9, at 12 o'clock.

100 prime fat cattle, for Mr. J. J. Mahony.

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